

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 EPA-04 EB-08
AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10
IO-14 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-15
SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 /127 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:PGLASOE:EF
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DOE:G.SHEPHERD
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EB/FSE:W.RAMSEY (SUBS)
-----077614 181542Z /17
R 171937Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 042719

FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT OF ENERGY SCENARIOS, MARCH 6-7

REF: WALLENBERG LETTER, JAN. 16

MISSION REQUESTED PASS FOLLOWING U.S. PAPER TO BENGT
WALLENBERG OF ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE IN RESPONSE TO HIS
REF REQUEST:

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF ENERGY SYSTEMS IN THE UNITED
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THERE ARE TWO MAJOR PROGRAMS IN THE U.S. IN WHAT HAS COME
TO BE CALLED INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT; ONE IS IN THE DEPART-
MENT OF ENERGY (DOE), THE OTHER IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA). BOTH PROGRAMS AIM AT IDENTIFYING
ENVIRONMENTALLY, SOCIALLY, AND ECONOMICALLY ACCEPTABLE
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES BY THE INTEGRATION OF

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH RESULTS. THE DOE PROGRAM PROVIDES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING SUPPORT TO VARIOUS TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVES FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ENERGY PLANNING NEEDS. THE EPA PROGRAM PROVIDES INFORMATION TO GUIDE DEVELOPMENT

OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL POLICIES FOR MITIGATING POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS. BOTH PROGRAMS SEEK TO IDENTIFY GAPS IN THE OVERALL RESEARCH EFFORT.

THE DOE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF THREE MAJOR SUBPROGRAMS:

(1) DEVELOPMENT OF METHODS AND MODELS NECESSARY TO SIMULATE ADVANCED ENERGY CONVERSION PROCESSES, LONG RANGE SO₂ TRANSPORT, REGIONAL ENERGY SUPPLY AND DEMAND, REGIONAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS AND SITING EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT. (2) TECHNOLOGY IMPACT ASSESSMENT. THE NATIONAL COAL UTILIZATION ASSESSMENT HAS PRELIMINARY RESULTS. EVENTUALLY THERE WILL BE ASSESSMENT FOR EACH ENERGY TECHNOLOGY. (3) REGIONAL COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENTS. THESE HELP STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PLANNING; THEY COMPLIMENT NATIONAL LEVEL TECHNOLOGY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND HELP ASSURE A WELL COORDINATED PLANNING EFFORT BETWEEN FEDERAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. PROTOTYPE PROJECTS ARE THE UTAH CONSORTIUM AND THE NEW ENGLAND ENERGY FORUM.

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THE EPA PROGRAM EMPHASIZES FIVE AREAS AND HAS SEVERAL "PASS-THROUGH" PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH OTHER AGENCIES. THE FIVE AREAS ARE: (1) TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT OF WESTERN U.S. ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, FOCUSING ON COAL, OIL SHALE, GEOTHERMAL, AND URANIUM RESOURCES IN THE WESTERN 13 STATES. EFFECTS RELATED TO THE CURRENT SPARSE POPULATION AND PRISTINE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN MUCH OF THIS AREA ARE EMPHASIZED. (2) TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF LARGE SCALE ENERGY FACILITIES IN THE OHIO RIVER BASIN. (3) TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT OF ELECTRIC UTILITY SYSTEMS. THIS AIMS AT TESTING POLLUTION CONTROL STRATEGIES AND IDENTIFYING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WHICH WILL REQUIRE FUTURE POLICY DECISIONS. (4) MAINTENANCE AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (SEAS), WHICH IS A SET OF INTEGRATED MODELS THAT PREDICT THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF MAJOR SHIFTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY POLICIES. (5) TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN APPALACHIA, A STUDY WHICH IS STILL IN THE VERY EARLY STAGES.

THE PRECEDING, OF COURSE, DEALS ONLY WITH THE PROGRAMS

OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL FEDERAL AGENCIES. AS IMPLIED MANY
OF THE STATES HAVE COMPARABLE INTERESTS AND, TO VARYING
DEGREES COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, COMMITTEES, SEMINARS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE042719
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PGLASOE:EF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780076-0220
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780239/aaaabhbd.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1fe07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3553880
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF ENERGY SCENARIOS, MARCH 6-7
TAGS: SENV, OECD
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1fe07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014